

834, *Lyc. amplexans* Raf. glaber, caulib. virgatis simpl. angulis obt. fol. arcte sessil. subamplex. basi dilatatis oblongis acum. remote serratis, axilis nudis paucifl.—Alabama, pedal sesquipedal leaves uncial pale beneath, this sp. differs from all by obtuse angles and leaves not attenuate at base.

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SETARIA FABERII IN EASTERN AMERICA.—In the summer of 1943 Mr. Bayard Long sent me for study a series of plants of the Philadelphia region which for some years had puzzled the field-botanists of that area. Sometimes forced unsatisfactorily into *Setaria viridis* (L.) Beauv. because of its dense green panicle; again occasionally shoved into *S. magna* Griseb. because of its great size, often nearly 2 m. high and sending up tall basal branches and with arching and flexuous panicles up to 1.7 dm. long, the latter soon dropping the ripe spikelets and becoming fuscous; and at other times unsuccessfully placed with *S. glauca* or even *S. italica*. Mr. Long became doubly suspicious of the identity of the plant with any of these species when, catching it with a beam of sunlight through the clump, he noted the rather conspicuous pubescence of the leaf-blades.<sup>1</sup> Such pubescence not occurring on the leaves of either *S. viridis*, *S. magna* or the other two, I tried in vain to make the material fit some tropical species with pilose leaves. Finally, I matched its spikelets and inflorescences in the recently described eastern Asiatic *S. Faberii* Herrm. in Rosen, Beitr. Biol. Pflanzen. x. 51 (1910), this Chinese species being there a weedy plant. About 20 years later *S. Faberii* was collected by Mr. Long in disturbed soil and rubbish along the Reading Railway in Philadelphia, September 9, 1931 (*Long*, no. 35,540). Since then it has been found "all over the lot" in eastern Pennsylvania, southwestern New Jersey and northern Delaware, in disturbed soils, on roadsides, in cultivated or fallow fields or even on tidal marshes. It has rapidly become a dominating and quickly recognized weed. In view of its weedy character in China, where noted only within the present century, the question of its native home arises. It may, like

<sup>1</sup> An incident in our Virginia field-work, often reported by our former companion, now Dr. Carroll Williams, is of our driving, at sunset, from Franklin toward Richmond at the maximum speed of that period, 60 miles an hour, when suddenly Long shouted: "Stop, stop, Carroll. That *Paspalum* has pubescent spikelets!" Surely enough, when Long returned from the colony, 50 (now stretched to 100) feet away, he showed by the light of the car the minute pilosity on the tiny spikelets. A vivid beam of light from the setting sun had given the inflorescence of the *Paspalum* a distinctive sheen.

*Eragrostis peregrina* and several other species, be always a seeming adventive.

Shown the distinctive characters, Mr. Carroll E. Wood returned for a time to his home in Roanoke County, Virginia. As he at first wrote me "it seems to follow me wherever I go". Subsequently he has altered this view. He sends me beautiful material from roadsides and fields of Roanoke and Botetourt Counties, Virginia, collected in October, 1943, the plant there abundant. He writes, however, that the plant, there "abundant and quickly recognized from the moving automobile", could not be traced into adjacent Rockbridge, Augusta and Albemarle Counties, where *S. viridis* abounds. Finally (for the moment) Rev. Frank Seymour brings me for identification a specimen, collected by him on a roadside in Lancaster, Massachusetts, in September, 1943.

*Setaria glauca* is at once distinguished from our other annual species by having each spikelet subtended by 5-20 bristles, our other species having but 1-3 bristles; while *S. italica* has the yellow to red or blackish grain dropping free from the spikelet. The three species with 1-3 bristles and with the green to stramineous or buff grain tightly embraced within the falling spikelet, *Setaria viridis*, *S. Faberii* and *S. magna*, may be distinguished as follows.

- a. Panicle only obscurely if at all lobulate, erect or but slightly arching, 1-17 cm. long, 0.5-3 cm. thick; grain rugose or cross-wrinkled; leaves 2-17 mm. wide.
  - Panicle erect or straightish, 0.5-2.3 cm. thick; spikelets 1.8-2.5 mm. long; grain slightly rugose; leaves 2-15 mm. wide, glabrous.....*S. viridis*.
  - Panicle flexuous to strongly arching, 2-3 cm. thick; spikelets 3 mm. long; grain distinctly cross-wrinkled; leaves 8-17 mm. wide, minutely pubescent beneath, strigose above.....*S. Faberii*.
- a. Panicle conspicuously lobulate, arching or drooping, 0.8-6 dm. long, 2.3-7 cm. thick; grain smooth; leaves 1-4 cm. broad, glabrous.....*S. magna*.

*Setaria Faberii* will doubtless be found in many herbaria, confused with the other species.—M. L. FERNALD.